WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- A method of tracking surplus reduction actions, said method 1. 1 comprising: 2
- receiving a surplus reduction action from a user; 3
- 4 identifying a user identifier corresponding to the user;
- and 5
- storing the user identifier and data corresponding to the 6
- surplus reduction action in a nonvolatile storage 7
- 8 area.

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- 14 2. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising: 2 3 receiving a digital signature from the user; authenticating the digital signature; and storing the digital signature in the nonvolatile storage
 - area.
 - The method as described in claim 1 wherein the user is an 3. employee and wherein the surplus reduction action includes a surplus acknowledgment.
 - The method as described in claim 3 further comprising: 1 4.
 - 2 sending the employee a non-compete agreement;
 - 3 receiving a digital signature from the employee
 - corresponding to the non-compete agreement; and 4
 - storing the employee's digital signature in the nonvolatile 5
 - storage area. 6
 - 5. The method as described in claim 4 further comprising: 1
 - identifying one or more surplus employees that have 2
 - confidential knowledge of an organization; and 3

writing a non-compete indicator to a non-compete data 4 storage area corresponding to the identified surplus 5 employees, wherein the non-compete agreement is sent 6 to surplus employees in response to the 7 identification. 8 1 6. The method as described in claim 5 further comprising: selecting the group of identified surplus employees; 2 3 analyzing digital signatures received from one or more of the identified surplus employees; 4 determining based on the analysis which of the identified surplus employees have not provided digital signatures in response to non-compete agreements; and sending a reminder notification to the determined group of surplus employees. 7. The method as described in claim 3 further comprising: providing benefits data to the employee in response to receiving the employee's surplus acknowledgement. 1 8. An information handling system comprising: 2 one or more processors; a memory accessible by the processors; 3 a nonvolatile storage area accessible by the processors; 4 5 an tracking tool for tracking surplus reduction actions, the tracking tool including: 6 7 means for receiving a surplus reduction action from a 8 user; means for identifying a user identifier corresponding 9 to the user; and 10

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11		means for storing the user identifier and data	
12	corresponding to the surplus reduction action in		
13		the nonvolatile storage area.	
1	9.	The information handling system as described in claim 8	
2		further comprising:	
3		means for receiving a digital signature from the user;	
4		means for authenticating the digital signature; and	
5		means for storing the digital signature in the nonvolatile	
6		storage area.	
***	10.	The information handling system as described in claim 8 wherein the user is an employee and wherein the surplus reduction action includes a surplus acknowledgment. The information handling system as described in claim 10 further comprising: means for sending the employee a non-compete agreement; means for receiving a digital signature from the employee corresponding to the non-compete agreement; and means for storing the employee's digital signature in the nonvolatile storage area.	
1	12.	The information handling system as described in claim 11	
2		further comprising:	
3		means for identifying one or more surplus employees that	
4		have confidential knowledge of an organization; and	
5		means for writing a non-compete indicator to a non-compete	
6		data storage area corresponding to the identified	

surplus employees, wherein the non-compete agreement

8		is sent to surplus employees in response to the
9		identification.
1	13.	The information handling system as described in claim 12
2		further comprising:
3		means for selecting the group of identified surplus
4		employees;
5		means for analyzing digital signatures received from one or
6		more of the identified surplus employees;
7		means for determining based on the analysis which of the
= 8		identified surplus employees have not provided digital
13 13 9		signatures in response to non-compete agreements; and
10		means for sending a reminder notification to the determined
10 111		group of surplus employees.
1	14.	A computer program product stored in a computer operable
1 2		media for tracking surplus reduction actions, said computer
3		program product comprising:
10 4 10 5		means for receiving a surplus reduction action from a user;
[<u>]</u> 5		means for identifying a user identifier corresponding to
6		the user; and
7		means for storing the user identifier and data
8		corresponding to the surplus reduction action in the
9		nonvolatile storage area.
1	15.	The computer program product as described in claim 14
2		further comprising:
3		means for receiving a digital signature from the user;
4		means for authenticating the digital signature; and

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- 5 means for storing the digital signature in the nonvolatile 6 storage area.
- 1 16. The computer program product as described in claim 14
 2 wherein the user is an employee and wherein the surplus
 3 reduction action includes a surplus acknowledgment.
- The computer program product as described in claim 16 further comprising:
 means for sending the employee a non-compete agreement;
 means for receiving a digital signature from the employee

corresponding to the non-compete agreement; and means for storing the employee's digital signature in the nonvolatile storage area.

18. The computer program product as described in claim 17 further comprising:

means for identifying one or more surplus employees that have confidential knowledge of an organization; and means for writing a non-compete indicator to a non-compete data storage area corresponding to the identified surplus employees, wherein the non-compete agreement is sent to surplus employees in response to the identification.

- 1 19. The computer program product as described in claim 18 further comprising:
- means for selecting the group of identified surplus
 employees;
- 5 means for analyzing digital signatures received from one or 6 more of the identified surplus employees;

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means for determining based on the analysis which of the
identified surplus employees have not provided digital
signatures in response to non-compete agreements; and
means for sending a reminder notification to the determined
group of surplus employees.

20. The computer program product as described in claim 16 further comprising: means for providing benefits data to the employee in response to receiving the employee's surplus

acknowledgement.